

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JKNOWLES:CCH

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

SY - MR. HECHMAN (SUBSTANCE)

SY - MR. BENNINGTON (SUBSTANCE)

EA/TB:JBDEXTER

S/S-O: K. KURZE

S/S-O: K. KURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 212183

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH, US

SUBJECT: FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN

REF: BANGKOK 16564

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ANTI-THANOM DEMONSTRATIONS TO DATE IN BOSTON AREA OR IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR ANAND VISITED BOSTON LAST WEEKEND AND MET WITH THAI STUDENTS IN EFFORT TO CALM THEIR HIGH FEELINGS AGAINST THANOM AND HIS PRESENCE IN U.S. IN THIS REGARD, THAI EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THANOM PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN BOSTON HAS RECEIVED MANY HARSH OR HARRASSING PHONE CALLS FROM THAI STUDENTS. EMBASSY HERE HAS RECEIVED MANY CALLS AND VISITORS EXPRESSING STRONG SYMPATHY WITH BANGKOK STUDENTS AND HARSH CRITICISM OF THANOM.

2. WE HAVE INFORMATION FROM BOSTON POLICE, THAI EMBASSY AND OTHER SOURCES THAT ESTIMATED 35 THAI STUDENTS IN
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BOSTON PLAN TO HOLD RALLY OR DEMONSTRATION ON BOSTON COMMON 1400 HOURS TOMORROW AFTERNOON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27. FURTHER, THAT THAI STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS SUCH AS NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES ARE

PLANNING TO GO TO BOSTON TO PARTICIPATE IN RALLY. THAI EMBASSY IS APPREHENSIVE OVER POSSIBILITY THAI STUDENTS MIGHT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH THANOM AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE

THOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION CONFIRMING STUDENTS HAVE SUCH PLAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, THAI EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THANOM AND PARTY LAST FEW DAYS, AND WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THANOM WAS PLANNING LEAVE BOSTON AREA THIS WEEKEND TO AVOID ANY DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH STUDENTS. BOSTON POLICE ARE CURRENTLY CHECKING TO CONFIRM THANOM'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

3. BOSTON POLICE AND ALL USG AGENCIES CONCERNED ARE ALERT TO POSSIBILITY OF ANTI-THANOM DEMONSTRATIONS AND POTENTIAL FOR PUBLICITY AND UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS IN THAILAND. BOSTON POLICE HAVE ASSURED SY, AND WE HAVE ASSURED THAI EMBASSY, THAT POLICE ARE TAKING PROPER SECURITY MEASURES OF DISCREET NATURE THAT WILL MINIMIZE RISK OF PROVOKING THAI STUDENTS OR SPARKING UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY. KISSINGER

SECRET

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